of constituting Telephone Advisory Committees on district/local basis;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether State Telephone Advisory Boards exist and if so, what are their powers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. One Telecom. Advisory Committee for each Secondary Switching Area under the Charge of Telecom. District Engineer will also be formed in addition to the State Telecom./Telephone District Advisory Committees. About 100 such committees have already been formed.

The functions of State Telecom/ Telephone Advisory committees are:-

(i) Monitoring the performance of telecommunication services and advising the Department for their improvement;

(ii) Bringing the telephone using public and the Department of Telecommunications into closer relationship;

(iii) Giving the public confidence that their grievances are being properly represented as well as attended to;

(iv) Giving publicity to the action being taken by the Department for improving and developing the telephone services;

(v) Assisting the Department in handling the shortages in telephone equipment and lines by invoking cooperation and patience from public; and

(vi) Assisting the Department in deciding out-of-turn connections as provided in the rules on a fair and equitable basis by joint assessment of the comparative merits of various applicants in the waiting list under the 'OYT' and 'NON-OYT' Special categories.

They can recommend for every bulk clearance in an exchange upto 5% of the total number of telephones being released, subject to a maximum of 100 telephones, for provision on out-of-turn priority basis from 'OYT-GENERAL' and 'NON-OYT Special' categories.

Rural Postal Services

4522. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3261 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 1988 and state:

(a) the number of rural post offices which have their own buildings and accommodation for staff;

(b) whether Government have received complaint about the poor and irregular performance of many

post offices in the rural areas of the country; and

(c) If so, what steps Government propose to take to improve rural postal service ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BHADUR SINGH : (a) The information is being collected from the field units and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Some complaints are received about the performance of rural post offices.

(c) In order to improve postal services in the rural sector, the Department has proposed to open 6,000 new post offices during the 7th Plan. In addition, scheme of 'Panchayat Dak Sewaks, has also been introduced on an experimental basis under this Scheme Gram Pancha Yats which do not have a post office are given a monthly grant of Rs. 150/- for engaging their own Dak Sewaks through whom postal facilities are provided to the local community.

Shifiting the Project site of Thermal Power Station from Morad Nagar Area of Ghaziahad to Dadri in Bulandshahr (U.P.)

4523. SHRI SHANTI TYAQI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed project site for a thermal power station in Murad Nagar area of Ghaziabad district has been shifted to Dadri in the district of Bulandshar;

(b) if so, what has happened to the lands in the villages of Saitli, Khurampur, etc. in Muradnagar area which was acquired for the project site which has now been shifted; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the cultivators whose lands have been taken over by the NTPC have neither been paid proper compensation nor given back their lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The National Capital Thermal Power Project, which was earlier proposed to be set up near Murad Nagar in Ghaziabad District of Uttar Pradesh is now under execution at a site near Dadri in the same District.

(b) While no land had been acquired in village Saitli, the land acquired for the project is being utilised by the National Thermal power Corporation to establish the main Earth Station for the satellite communication network and the proposed Transmission Training Institute.

(c) No, Sir; due compensation was paid for the acquired land.